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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Page 9, line 2, before claim 1, replace the single word heading CLAIMS with the following heading:

~~CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) Tear-off device for sections ~~(46)~~ of a continuous material, comprising: (18) ~~with~~

a pullout mechanism ~~(10)~~ for the transport of the continuous material ~~(18)~~ and with

a tear-off mechanism ~~(12)~~, which has at least two pressure-applying elements ~~(24, 26, 70)~~, which are disposed on two opposite sides of the continuous material ~~(18)~~ and of which at least one can be engaged against the continuous material ~~(18)~~ by ~~means of~~ a positioning device, ~~characterized in that~~ the positioning device ~~has~~ having at least one motor ~~(42, 49, 60)~~ and a control device ~~(43)~~ for the temporal control of the at least one motor ~~(42, 49, 60)~~, with which the pressure-applying elements ~~(24, 26, 70)~~ can be engaged at a controllable point in time.

2. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the motor is a servomotor ~~(42, 60)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, ~~wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the pullout mechanism ~~(10)~~ and the tear-off mechanism ~~(12)~~ each have their own driving mechanism ~~(22)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, ~~wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the control device ~~(43)~~ is a programmable control device, with which the points in time of the engaging and/or withdrawal movements can be adjusted in relation to the transport of the continuous material sheet ~~(18)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the pressure-applying elements ~~(24, 26)~~, disposed on either side of the continuous material sheet ~~(18)~~, each are mounted in pivoted arms ~~(28)~~, which are connected over at least one of a tie bar or and ram bar ~~(34, 36)~~ with the positioning device.

6. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 5, further comprising a coupling linkage which connects ~~characterized in that~~ the pivoted arms ~~(28)~~ are connected on either side of the continuous material ~~(18)~~ with a coupling linkage ~~(34, 37, 40, 36)~~, so that they can be pivoted synchronously.

7. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim ~~claims~~ 5, ~~wherein or 6, characterized in that~~ the positioning device has at least one shaft ~~(40)~~, which is driven by the at least one motor ~~(42)~~ and by which the at least one of the tie bar ~~or and~~ ram bar ~~(34, 36)~~ can be driven in the form of a connecting rod.

8. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, ~~wherein one or the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the adjustable pressure-applying elements ~~(24, 26)~~ are pressure-applying rollers, which are mounted in each case rotatably on an eccentric ~~(54)~~ and ~~that~~ the eccentrics ~~(54)~~ can be driven one of individually ~~or and~~ jointly by the at least one ~~motors (60) or the motor (60)~~ of the positioning device.

9. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one of the pressure-applying elements ~~(24, 26)~~ is mounted so that it can be shifted by ~~means of~~ at least one second motor ~~(76)~~ essentially perpendicularly to the continuous material sheet ~~(18)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the adjustable pressure-applying elements ~~(70)~~ in each case have roll segments, which are mounted rotatably and can be driven one of individually

or and jointly by the at least one ~~motors (60) or the motor (60)~~ of the positioning device.

11. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one of the pressure-applying elements ~~(70)~~ is mounted so that it can be shifted by ~~means of~~ at least one second motor ~~(76)~~ essentially perpendicularly to the continuous material ~~(18)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the at least one motor ~~(42, 49, 60)~~ of the positioning device can be driven over a limited traversing distance in opposite directions and ~~the~~ adjusting movements of the at least one motor ~~(42, 49, 60)~~ can be controlled with respect to time by the control device ~~(43)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 4 and 12, characterized in that~~ the traversing distance of the at least one motor ~~(42, 49, 60)~~ is programmable.

14. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 12 or 13, characterized in that~~ the at least one motor ~~(49)~~ is a linear motor.

15. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 1, wherein
~~one of the claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ the at least one
motor ~~(43, 60)~~ can be driven to rotate with a variable speed in
one direction of rotation.

16. (Currently Amended) The tear-off device of claim 15, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the speed of the at least one motor ~~(42,~~
~~60)~~ can be varied down to zero.